

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----017165 141834Z /43

P R 141804Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7711
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
DA WASHDC
HQ USAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06947

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL ETEL GW OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING WITH MINISTER APEL:
US FORCES PROBLEMS WITH FRG BUNDESPOST

1. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, DURING THE APRIL 13 MEETING
BETWEEN DELEGATIONS LED BY SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER
APEL THE QUESTION OF PROBLEMS US FORCES ARE EXPERIENCING
WITH THE BUNDESPOST AROSE INDIRECTLY IN THE COURSE OF
THE DISCUSSIONS OF AWACS. STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL
MENTIONED US PURCHASE OR LEASE OF GERMAN EQUIPMENT FOR
THE EUROPEAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM (ETS) AS ONE POSSIBLE
ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH COULD FACILITATE GERMAN AGREEMENT
TO AWACS.

2. AMBASSADOR KOMER RESPONDED INITIALLY, POINTING OUT
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THAT SINCE FORMER MINISTER LEBER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY
BROWN ON THE SUBJECT OF ETS THE US FORCES HAD EX-
PERIENCED CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS WITH THE BUNDESPOST.
THE COST OF LEASING GERMAN EQUIPMENT WOULD BE THREE TIMES
THE COST OF US-MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT. LEASING GERMAN
EQUIPMENT WOULD END UP COSTING US EVEN MORE AT RATES
CITED BY THE BUNDESPOST. HE REQUESTED THE MOD TO USE

ITS GOOD OFFICES TO SEE WHETHER A MORE FAVORABLE PRICE
COULD BE OBTAINED. THE US WOULD LIKE TO BUY GERMAN
EQUIPMENT, AMBASSADOR KOMER SAID, BUT IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO TELL CONGRESS WE WISHED TO BUY SOMETHING
THAT COST THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS COMPARABLE US EQUIPMENT.

3. SECRETARY BROWN REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO US
OBJECTION TO THE FACT THAT CHARGES FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE
INCLUDE CHARGES DESIGNED TO SUBSIDIZE OTHER BUNDESPOST
SERVICES.

4. SCHNELL SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW TO MOVE AHEAD,
AS THE FMOD HAD NOT DIRECT INFLUENCE WITH THE POSTAL
MINISTRY. NEVERTHELESS, HE UNDERTOOK TO ASSIST IF
POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT A \$200 MILLION TELEPHONE PURCHASE
WOULD HELP THE FMOD IN ITS EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE
BUNDESTAG ON AWACS.

5. THE TELEPHONE ISSUE WAS AGAIN TOUCHED ON WHEN
MINISTER APEL, WHO HAD BEEN ABSENT IN THE BUNDESTAG
DURING THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION, REJOINED THE MEETING.
APEL NOTED THAT SECRETARY BROWN HAD ALREADY MENTIONED
THE HIGH COST OF GERMAN EQUIPMENT DURING THEIR PRIVATE
DISCUSSION EARLIER IN THE DAY. REFERRING TO THE NEED TO
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INFORM THE BUNDESTAG, IN CONNECTION WITH THE AWACS ISSUE,
OF OTHER MOVEMENT ON THE "TWO-WAY STREET," APEL ASKED
WHETHER THE TELEPHONE PROBLEMS WERE ONES WHICH

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COULD BE SOLVED QUICKLY AND WHETHER IT WAS PRIMARILY A QUESTION OF COST. SECRETARY BROWN RESPONDED THAT HE GATHERED THE BUNDESPOST WAS NOT EASY TO INFLUENCE AND THAT HE HOPED MINISTER APEL WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT COST OF GERMAN EQUIPMENT FOR THE ETS WAS INDEED A PROBLEM. APEL AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE DETAILS.

6. IN A CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE FORMAL MEETING, MR. SIENA AND THE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO STATE SECRETARIES HIEHLE AND SCHNELL ON THE BUNDESPOST PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE RHEIN/MAIN PBX AND GARLSTEDT. THEY NOTED THAT AT ISSUE WAS A QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION OF THE NATO SOFA AND BUNDESPOST INSISTENCE -- CONTRARY TO THE US INTERPRETATION -- THAT BUNDESPOST REGULATIONS APPLIED EVEN TO TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT ON US INSTALLATIONS.

7. AT THE REQUEST OF STATE SECRETARY HIEHLE, IT WAS
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AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE THE FMOD WITH A WRITTEN MEMORANDUM WHICH WOULD DESCRIBE THE ISSUES IN MORE DETAIL. HIEHLE UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH STATE SECRETARY ELIAS IN THE POSTAL MINISTRY.
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